

LOUISE

Louise began as a low level circulation in the monsoon trough first noted on 30 August in the Philippine Sea to the east of Catanduanes Island. An organized cloud pattern became apparent the next day but the surface circulation remained weak. The weak surface low drifted towards the northwest for the next 72 hours.

By 3 September, an aircraft investigative mission reported a narrow band of 65 to 75 knot surface winds north of the low center although the minimum sea level pressure was only 998mb (03/0350 GMT). A 60 knot wind report from the United Kingdom ship SHEAF TYNE 30nm to the north of Louise confirmed the aircraft observation. Satellite imagery at approximately the same time showed Louise to be poorly organized. The near-typhoon force winds appear to have been a transitory phenomenon induced by the channeling effect of the Luzon Strait. By the evening of the 3rd, a reconnaissance

aircraft reported maximum winds of only 40 knots as Louise entered the South China Sea.

On the 4th, Louise had become a better organized tropical storm well on her way to becoming a typhoon (Figure 4-14). The mid-tropospheric ridge to the north of Louise kept her on a westerly course at 10 kts across the South China Sea.

She passed 150nm to the south of Hong Kong late on the 5th just as she reached peak intensity of 75 kts. Throughout her life, Louise remained a relatively small typhoon. Louise crossed the Luichow Peninsula during the night of the 6th. Eighteen hours later she made landfall and dissipated rapidly over North Vietnam.

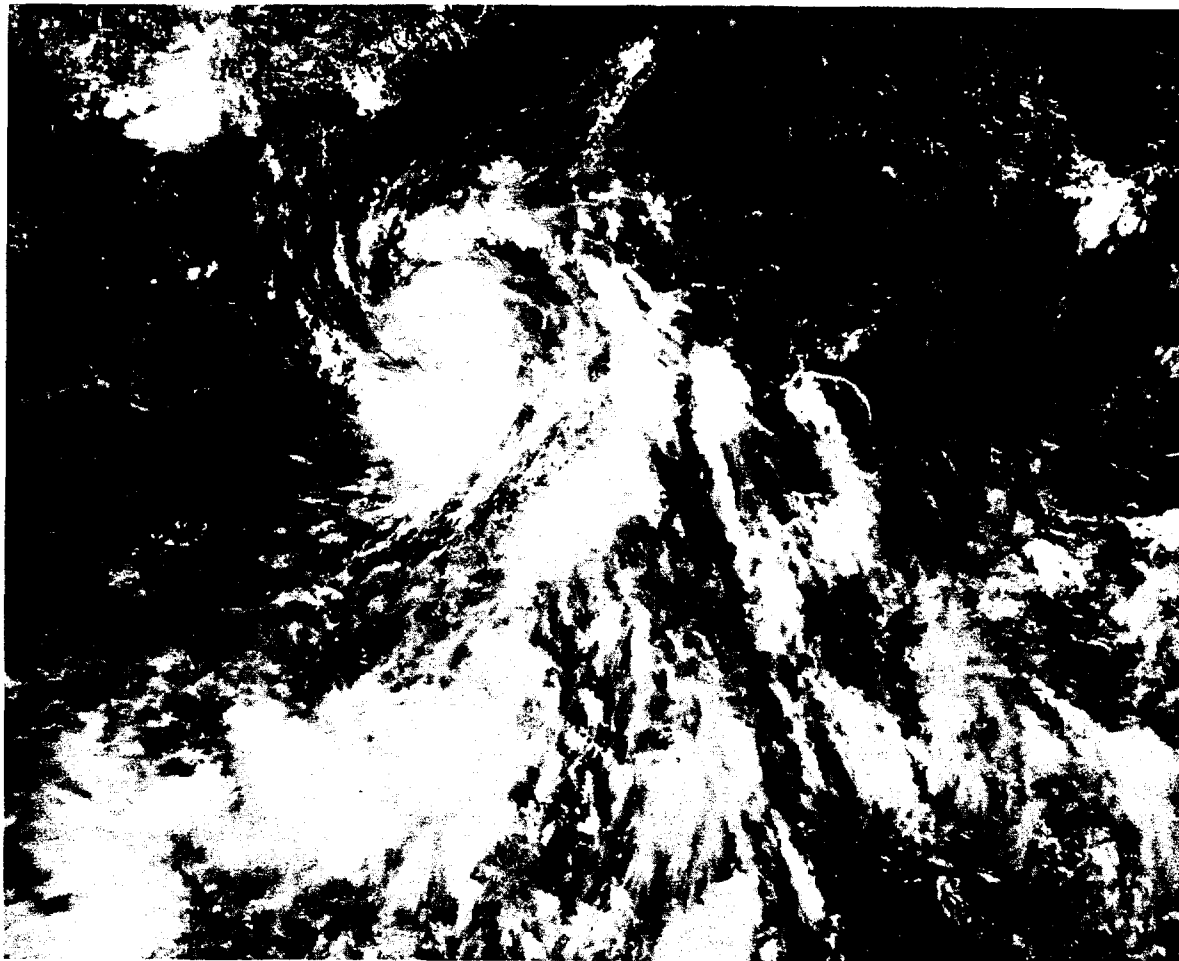


FIGURE 4-14. Tropical Storm Louise 105 nm northwest of Luzon, 4 September 1973, 0401 GMT. (DMSP imagery)